



GOD LOVE

SOME HAVE GONE FORTH

Some have gone forth far from loved ones and home,
Leaving their all for His service alone,
Counting the gain of this world only dross,
Seeking no glory save that of His cross.

Some have gone forth into darkness so dense,
Darkness that crushes, a darkness intense,
There in far lands where their Lord is not known,
Gladly to work for His glory alone.

Some have gone forth with the story so old,
Reaping a harvest more precious than gold.
Are you, too, faithfully doing your share,
Helping together by gifts and by prayer?

Some have gone forth, but so many remain
Safely at home, other honors to gain.
Millions of lost ones who never have heard,
Few, oh, so few to go forth with His Word.

—Unknown.

THE GROUND OF

Vol. 37, No. 20

*“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the
gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”
—Heb. 10:15b.*

July 13, 1946

NOTICES...

To Whom It May Concern: This is to certify that David G. Ruesga is no longer a minister in the Church of God.—Paul H. Walker, chairman, Mission Board.

I am now in the evangelistic work. I may be reached through Rev. J. H. Hughes, 930 S. Champion Ave., Columbus, Ohio.—Joel D. Brown.

My wife and I are ready to go into evangelistic work. We will go anywhere you need a revival.—Rev. and Mrs. Edgar A. Digsby, 303 E. Damon, Bemiston, Talladega, Ala.

Any brethren interested, we shall be glad to send you some scripture revelations, which are astonishing, and facts. As God has revealed them to us, we pass them on to you. Anyone sending stamped envelope shall receive them.—H. C. Smith, 516 N. Wall St., Natchez, Miss.

I am now open for evangelistic work. Anyone or church desiring a revival may contact me at the following address: Route 8, Box 350, Roanoke, Va. For reference, write Rev. Charles Burkett, South Boston, Va., and Rev. John Branson, Starkey, Va.—Noah E. Allen.

NOTICE (Colored Work)

All ministers and churches in the states of Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, please make your reports promptly, to Church of God Headquarters, Cleveland, Tenn., and to your state overseer, whose address is 1122 10th St., West Palm Beach, Fla.—F. B. Bell, colored, state overseer.

GREAT CAMP MEETING AND YOUTH FOR CHRIST CONGRESS

FOR MARYLAND, DELAWARE, EASTERN VIRGINIA, AND WASHINGTON, D. C., convenes on the Maryland Peninsula, three miles south of Hurlock, July 22 through August 4. Every effort has been made to make this the greatest youth congress and camp meeting that has ever been on the Eastern shore.

The youth congress July 22-July 26, at beautiful Shiloh camp of the Church of God, the campus dotted with pine, maple, oak, and hickory trees, will be a four-day feast filled with special interesting features,

for only \$15 for room, board, tuition, and registration. An opportunity that no one could afford to miss. The curriculum offered in this congress will be such studies as Youth Leadership, Christian Fundamentals, New Testament, Object Lessons on the Book for the World of Tomorrow, Missions, The Man Who Forgot God and The Prodigal Son, Youth Evangelism and Missions, Youth and the Church, and How To Conduct a Daily Vacation Bible School. Yes, from 7 A.M., the rising bell, until 10:45 will be a day filled with interest. There will be studies, object lessons, choir practice and directing, victory services, recreational periods, hygienics, social activities, old-fashioned evangelistic meetings, and time enough to eat.

The age limits are from 12 to 35 years. Visitors are invited. Night sessions are free for all to attend.

CAMP MEETING

Of course, the camp meeting, convening from July 26 through August 4, we are expecting to be second to none. Great preachers with a great message with special outpourings of God's presence.

Music rendered by a fifteen-piece orchestra, under the direction of Vep Ellis. We will have quartets, trios, duets, and soloists from various parts of the country.

Those who attended last year's camp meeting will remember the fine meals prepared under the management of Rev. F. B. Marine. This is to be repeated this year, only with more added facilities. The added equipment at the camp, such as seven new cottages, modern rest rooms, and many other features too numerous to mention, will be greatly appreciated by those present.

Committees have been appointed to make reservations in near-by towns and communities to house the great crowds which are expected to attend. Come one, come all. All roads lead to the great Shiloh camp and youth congress on the Maryland Peninsula, from July 22 through August 4.

For reservations, write Rev. Paul H. Walker, 2403 Elsinor Avenue, Baltimore 16, Maryland.

DEATHS

Carpenter

The death angel came on June 1, 1946, and claimed Hattie Shell Carpenter who was forty-one years old January 3. — Mrs. A. M. Rein, Rt. 2,

Cave City, Ark.

Norton

On June 5, 1946, the death angel visited the home of Mr. Norton and took the dear wife and mother of two daughters home to be with Jesus. She was a faithful member of the Church of God at Edwardsville, Ala.—Her sister, Mrs. Sara Rakestraw, Edwardsville, Ala.

Everly

Rev. C. W. Everly, a faithful member and good preacher of The Church of God at Middlesboro, Ky., went to be with Jesus May 16, 1946. He was sick over a year. How we do miss him! He was well liked in this country and will be missed in many ways. He leaves a fine family and a host of friends. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, one who loved him, and he was laid to rest in the Hensley cemetery.—His pastor, Sam Halcomb.

Hardin

On June 8, 1946, death called Vera Dean Hull Hardin, age seventeen years, nine months, and twenty days, and her infant baby, Junith Lueze, out of this world. She was the only daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Hull, of Weatherford, Texas.—Rev. W. W. Smethers, Trinity, Tex.

Requests for Prayer

PRAY FOR:

My wife who has had a cerebral hemorrhage and a bad heart; my son who is in service.—Roger Hester, 104 Central Ave., Dayton 6, Ohio.

My mother-in-law to be healed of sinus trouble, her head gives her so much trouble.—W. H. Edwards, Meherrin, Va.

God to undertake for my husband.—Mrs. Lois Vaught, Pemberton, W. Va.

God to undertake for my seventy-two-year-old husband spiritually and mentally.—Mrs. Robert V. Fagaly, 1203 East 39th St., Vancouver, Wash.

The Lord to heal me, I have been very sick for two months.—Sister Margaret Thompson.

The healing of my body; the healing of my sister-in-law whose arm was injured in January, she cannot use it very much.—Sister Georgia Herring, Rt. 1, Box 38, Altha, Fla.

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What Were the Reformers Trying to Reform

By Horace McCracken

(NOTE: This article ran in part with another article by the same author in June 8 issue, therefore we are running it in part so the readers may have the entire article.)

In early modern history I was impressed with the number and variety of reformers and religious leaders who appeared in the sixteenth century: Savonarola, Colet, Erasmus, Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin, as well as many lesser. It is easy—and conventional—to point out their differences, as, for example, the split between Luther and Calvin over transubstantiation, but it occurred to me that if we could discover what it was that all of the reformers agreed on in common, if anything, we must in those points be approaching areas of central truth. Furthermore, the burden of proof is on the minority: the person who breaks away from what most everyone else is believing and is willing to stand for his belief even at the cost of personal harm, must have strong reasons for his belief.

Now, we are all more or less familiar with the principles of Luther's reforms, since evangelical churches are still opposing essentially the same things. Let us pause, however, for a moment, to add to our perspective of church history by noting what it was that the Catholic reformers undertook to reform; for after some decades of the Reformation, the Catholic Church bestirred itself to some internal reforms called Counter-reformation, chief among whose leaders were Ignatius of Loyola, Pius V, Gregory XIII, and Sixtus V. Their reforms fell into these classes: objection against the moral corruption of the clergy, worldliness and financial greed of the clergy, and ignorance of the clergy; together with an increase in missionary and educational work and a careful definition and enforcement of Catholic doctrine.

The great men Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin were, of course, strongly op-

posed to the first-mentioned three conditions, for they had started the objection in the first place, and also agreed quite closely in actively repudiating the following doctrines: Authority of the Pope (as the representative of Christ), priesthood and confession of sins to the priest, authority of traditions, sale of indulgences, salvation through works and penances, monastic and ascetic ideal for Christianity (meaning that they felt salvation should be joyous rather than sad), prayer to Mary and the saints, Holy Orders, and purgatory, as well as some others.

At the conclusion of that work, I observed that virtually all of the reformers, both Catholic and Protestant, agreed in one respect: One must *live* the moral standard he *preaches*. (This was in contrast to the rather widespread belief that a person could be used by God to bring salvation to oth-

ers even though he himself was living in sin.)

As for the Protestant reformers, they reached a very general agreement in the following respects:

1. Repentance must be in the heart, and confession of sins to God.

2. The work of Christ on the cross is the complete and final sacrifice for sin, and no good works of ours can have any merit or contribute in any way to salvation.

3. The revelation of salvation through Christ is contained in the Bible to the exclusion of tradition, and the meaning of the Scripture is to be determined by reason and scholarship, rather than by a dependence on official interpretations given by the Church.

4. "Sooner or later the Reformers always came to the conclusion that the first great practical evil was the authority of the Pope The papacy was contrary to Scripture, not simply because there were sundry texts against it, but chiefly because it was the center of a system which had been shown by experience to make void the righteousness of God revealed in the Scripture."—*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*.

A Sure Mark of a True Christian

By Chester Shuler

When, during the Civil War, General Robert E. Lee was not so well known as a great commander, he was severely criticized on many occasions by a General Whiting. This General Whiting was a brilliant man. He had been the top man in their class at West Point. He had a great deal of influence with Jefferson Davis, the president of the confederacy.

One day, Mr. Davis desired a man for a most important mission. Sending for General Lee, he asked Lee's opinion of Whiting. Lee answered without hesitation, commending Whiting as one of the most able men in all the army, well qualified in every way for even the most responsible place.

Other officers who overheard Lee's words were amazed. They knew of Whiting's underhanded tactics and

the damage he had tried to do to Lee at every turn. One of them called Lee aside. "Don't you know what unkind things Whiting has been saying about you?" he asked.

"I understand," Lee replied, "that President Davis desired to know my opinion of General Whiting, not Whiting's opinion of me."

This, of course, was but characteristic of General Lee's character and life. He was one of the most fair-minded, able, generous and brave men of our country's history.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath" (Prov. 15:1), and kind words about those who speak evilly of us are worth more than gold or rubies. Such words are very rare today. It is an almost unheard-of thing to hear a person say nice things about an enemy. Certainly, nothing so surely and indelibly marks a true Christian spirit in anyone than

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RELIGION... and the World

BY THE EDITOR

Russian and U. S. Radio

Without giving the source of information, *Bible News Flashes* has reprinted a report by *The Herald*, of Hot Springs, New Mexico, stating that, "according to press reports, some of our greatest broadcasting system has been sold to Russians. The result is seen in the strenuous efforts to put the gospel off the air." This is news, and, if true, presents a tragic circumstance. Whether true or not, there is an unusual effort at shutting the air lanes to many gospel preachers of good repute in the broadcasting field. The Church of God has also suffered like things relative to some of our broadcasts. Satan knows he has but a short time and many methods of evil device are in the making.

Christianity in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, June 1 (AP)—A government decree issued Saturday ordered the registration of all religious organizations except Roman Catholic.

The decree forbade the establishment of new Protestant missions or churches to work among the Indians, and required that in the future all Protestant sects must be approved by the local Catholic bishop before they can deal with the government.

The Jewish Problem

Light and Liberty gives us the following note on the intolerable Jewish situation:

"James Effendi Hussein, acting chairman of the Arab higher committee, said adoption of the report—which recommended that 100,000 European Jews be admitted immediately to Palestine—'would drive the entire middle east into the bosom of Soviet Russia.'

"The general trend all over the Middle East would be to the left,' he added. 'We will grab at any straw—Russia or anyone who will help us.'

"The Jews are sick of Europe, according to the organ of the Zionist Emergency Council. Asked by the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine: 'What would be your

second choice if they fail to open Palestine for you?' the pathetic answer was 'Death.'"

Should Britain and the United States fall the Jews, and Stalin would seize the chance of a lifetime, and he does not overlook chances, the Jews might fall to Russia for support. In that event, the Palestinian role of antichrist would be well under way for the final covenant with the Jews and the awful predictions of Ezekiel, 28th and 29th chapters.

Brides With Vision

Moody Monthly gives us the following note on Ethiopian brides:

"In Ethiopia 'brides-to-be are asking their would-be-husbands not for wedding rings, as in former days, but for copies of the New Testament,' writes G. W. Playfair, of the Sudan Interior Mission. Twenty-one thousand copies of the New Testament in Amharic are now almost ready for shipment to Ethiopia."

The Shadow and Crime

BERLIN—The four powers occupying Germany, aided by German civilian police, are pushing a concerted drive against vice and delinquency which is bringing in about 2,300 Berlin women and girls weekly.

Up to last week, 50% of those examined had venereal diseases. A campaign of compulsory treatment is now reducing this to approximately 25%.

In launching the anti-vice drive, military government authorities are tackling what one senior American medical officer called "the greatest morals problem in the world."

He estimated there are 250,000 women of "easy virtue" in Berlin, among whom at least 60,000 are classified as professional or semi-professional prostitutes. The medical officer said:

"To explain these figures one must first of all remember that the Nazis encouraged illegitimacy to promote the birth rate. And now here's a beaten up city of 3,000,000 people occupied by armies of four nations. It's a city through which stream many thousands

of refugees with many lost children, a city in which food and shelter are short, a city in which many thousands of women lost their men through death or imprisonment."

The "Shadow Knows" the wretchedness of crime. If, however, the terrible-ness of crime or sin was apparently overlooked, it remains that God knows, and men are sure to reap as they have sown.

Prayer for Normandy Invasion

Sunday School Times relates how a "medic" said to Chaplain Bryant, "Do you know what I just heard over the radio? The announcer said that the churches in America have been open day and night since the invasion started, and that they are crowded with people praying for us to take this Cherbourg peninsula. They are behind us with their prayers. Surely God will hear them." As he spoke these quiet and heartening words, something like an electric thrill went all around that little crowd of men. We were charged with new spirit and power. We had our confidence in God renewed, our flagging strength was reinforced, and we were ready for the day's work ahead.

You, who stayed at home and waited on God in prayer, may be certain of this: your prayers played a tremendous part in the military victory that the fighting men gained. The knowledge that you prayed gave nerve, hope, certainty, and cast out fear from the hearts of our men. May you be as faithful now in praying for the spiritual awakening that our nation so urgently needs.

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SIN

E. E. STARR

What Is Sin?

The Bible defines sin as the transgression of the law. However, in the true sense sin involves both the transgression and its cause. Without the cause the act would not occur therefore the cause or root of sin is sin, the same as the act.

Fruits of Sin

Sometime ago, a man I knew got his throat cut and narrowly escaped death. Sin was to blame. In my home town a young man, a bank cashier, robbed the bank, for which he was sent to prison, losing his position and reputation which he had attained through years of faithful service. Sin was to blame. Another man shot and killed his brother's wife. Sin was to blame. Many years of my life were spent in drunkenness and infidelity. Sin was to blame. I have witnessed two mighty global conflicts in which millions of lives were lost and great suffering resulted. Sin was responsible. James 4:1-4. Statistics show that over four hundred thousand of our dear boys and girls have turned from honorable pursuits to a life of crime. Sin is responsible. If it were not for sin, we could dispense with our law enforcement, reformatories, jails, many of our hospitals, health resorts, and physicians. Hearts are broken, homes destroyed and lives wrecked by sin. The destruction, suffering, sorrow, and death wrought by sin is incalculable.

God's Attitude Toward Sin

God's attitude toward sin is reflect-

ed in His punishment of sin. See Gen. 3:3-18; Gen. 6:6, 7; Num. 25:1-9; Josh. 7:18-25; Num. 16:32; 2 Sam. 6:7; Num. 11:33; Lev. 10:1; Num. 15:30-36; 1 Sam. 6:19; 2 Sam. 24:15.

Origin of Sin

The act of sin originated in the Garden of Eden by our foreparents Adam and Eve, but the cause preceded the act; therefore, we must look elsewhere for it. For thousands of years, philosophers have sought in vain for the cause of sin. The only true source of knowledge of good and evil is the

ling up and down in it. But are gushing forth from that fountain of sin couched deep in our mortal being. What is this fountain of sin? It is the CARNALITY OF MAN. What are the motions of sin working in our members? They are the carnal desires or lusts of the flesh. For confirmation of this statement see James 1:13-15.

Where is this carnality located in our fleshly being? In the senses. Our bodies are constituted with five senses; namely, sense of taste, sense of smell, sense of hearing, sense of sight and

sense of feeling. Certain exterior substances when brought into contact with said senses produce a pleasing sensation known as pleasure. The desires of our senses, together with the evil emotions resulting therefrom, constitute what Paul called motions of sin and James called lusts that tempt and lead to sin. That sin is carnality in the flesh is positively established by Paul in Romans 8:3, 6, 7.

A study of the Bible reveals that sin in humanity originates from the lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, or the pride of life. Eve sinned lusting for the forbidden fruit. Israel sinned in the wilderness lusting for the fleshpots of Egypt. Achan sinned coveting the Babylonish garment, golden wedge and two hundred shekels of silver. Korah sinned lusting for leadership and power. David sinned coveting Uriah's wife. Israel committed the sin of rebellion and refused to enter the promised land because of fear and displeasure of the carnal



Bible, hence we shall confine our search for truth to the Holy Scriptures. In the seventh chapter of Romans, 14 to the 24th verses, the Apostle Paul definitely implies that the source or root of sin is in the flesh, human body. Also, that in his fallen state he was helplessly bound and controlled by sin working in his members. Study closely.

The mighty motions of sin which are rocking the world today are not emanating from a monstrous demon going to and fro in the earth, and walk-

mind.

If sin originates in the flesh, the question arises, What part does Satan play in the program of sin? Satan perverts truth when and wherever possible; deceives concerning the punishment of sin; and agitates anger, malice, hatred and retaliation arising from strife over things of the flesh; suggests and encourages carnal indulgencies by removing restraint of fear from our hearts. Satan's sugges-

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The Holy Ghost

ETHEL BLANCH

Dear Friends: I am writing a few words on the Holy Ghost whom Jesus sent to be in the hearts of His children. As I was on my knees in prayer, it came into my heart to write this, that it may, by God's grace, give a little courage to those who are seeking for this wonderful gift, and to get those who don't believe in this wonderful gift of the Holy Ghost to search God's Holy Word and find this blessed truth.

Acts 2:4, "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." Who gave them utterance? The Holy Ghost spoke through their lips as Jesus had promised them He would. When Jesus was on earth, He told them that His Father would send the Comforter, which was the Holy Ghost, and would send Him in His name. John 14:26, Why did He send this precious Holy Ghost? He sent Him to comfort us in our trials, in our sorrow, and in sickness, and to keep us in the straight and narrow way that leads to eternal life and our home above. Oh, praise God, for this wonderful gift of love! Only those who have the precious Holy Ghost can know the joy, the peace and comfort He gives. No matter how deep your sorrow, the Holy Ghost can comfort. No matter how hard your trials, this sweet Holy Ghost can and will give you new courage and cause you to say, "Truly God is a wonderful help in time of trouble." Glory to His wonderful holy name!

Some may say this was only for Jesus' disciples, but friends and children of God who haven't this gift of God, study Acts 2:39; for the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." You may say, "But God hasn't called me." Listen God calls us all to repent and be saved and serve Him. 2 Peter 3:9 says God is not willing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance and share in Jesus' glory with Him in heaven. I have heard people say, "Well, Jesus just said He would send power to them after He went back to heaven." Friends, don't let the devil deceive and fool you by his cunning lies. In

Acts 1:5, 8, Jesus Himself said, "But ye shall receive power after." After what? "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Not just power but the Holy Ghost was to come upon them, then they were to have power that only God can give.

Some may say the Holy Ghost is given us when we accept Jesus Christ and become saved. We read in Acts 1:14, that after Jesus had told His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem for the Holy Ghost, Mary the mother of Jesus also tarried to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. If there were no Holy Ghost, would the mother of Jesus have tarried to receive Him? And we know that certainly Jesus' mother was already saved. I wish every one under heaven would accept Him. Friend, don't let anyone deceive you. Read the Holy Word of God and find out for yourself about this wonderful gift that is for you. Oh, the joy and peace and comfort we can have if only we take God at His Word and believe on His promises. This promise is for you if you'll only read your Bible and believe in God, accept His precious promise and do what He wants you to do.

You who are seeking this wonderful gift, I would like to give you some word of encouragement. Don't give up, but pray more earnestly. Read your Bible prayerfully and God will

reward you. Take new courage and trust more fully in Jesus. Get on your knees, tell Jesus how much you need this sweet Holy Ghost in your life to guide you on the right road of life. Tell Him all your troubles and discouragements and how the devil is trying to get you away from Him. Tell Him all about your burdens and your temptations. God is a loving Father and He will hear and answer the prayers of His children. "As a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him," Psalm 103:12. Praise God. He watches over us and knows our every need. He will give you what is best for you in every thing if you but trust in His great love for you, and have faith in His promises. Hebrews 11:6 says, "For without faith it is impossible to please God." We must believe that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. So, dear friends, have faith in God and He will bring it to pass. He will save to the uttermost all that call upon Him. Praise His holy name. I thank Him today that He saw fit to receive me as His child and to intrust to me the sweet Holy Ghost. I pray that I may be found a faithful steward of this most wonderful gift of God. This gift is of more value than all the riches the world can offer you, and He gives more peace and happiness than anything else in the world. Praise God! I can speak from experience. Take new courage, loved ones, and press on in the work of our Lord and Savior, and someday we shall all meet, to be with our blessed Lord and Savior who has loved us so very much. May God bless you all.

The Revelation of Paul

NADYNE CLOUSE

1 Thess. 4:13-18

We usually think of John when we speak of the "revelator." However, Paul, the apostle, was given a great revelation too—"the Church Age," the most prominent doctrine of which was the "rapture." The old prophets prophesied of the resurrection and the millennial reign, but they did not know of the rapture. A number of the saints of Paul's day who had studied the Old Testament, wondered what would happen to those who were alive at Christ's coming (appearing), and thought Christ was coming at that time, thus were looking for His immediate return.

In verse 13, Paul is not upbraiding the saints but making known to them the revelation of the mystery of the church. He did not want them to be ignorant or to misunderstand the truth; therefore, he tells them of the chronological happening of events. He begins by telling or reminding them of the resurrection of the sleeping saints and leads up to his point or the "rapture." He tells them not to be sorrowful because they have hope and are not like unto others who know not God.

Verse 14, Paul states that this point of his doctrine is based upon the (Continued on page 15)

White Garments

REV. D. H. DELK

Eccl. 9:8, "Let thy garments be always white."

"Always" means all the time; continually; without end; never ceasing to be white.

God has no color, but He loves white. In fact, white is all He'll have. "White" means pure; innocent; without tint, stain, dinge, streak, or stripe. God's garments are always white, holy, sanctified. Exod. 28:2, "Thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron . . . for glory and for beauty." Holy garments are always white, always long enough, always thick enough.

In Baruch 5:2, of the Apocrypha, are these words, "Cast about thee a double garment of the righteousness which cometh from God." These words are in the same chapter, "Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high, and look about toward the east, and behold thy children gathered from the west unto the east by the word of the holy one . . . for God will show thy brightness unto every country under heaven." Surely this is a timely scripture, as the Jews are going east now. Yes, it is marriage supper time (or so near), and it is no time to have on grey clothes, for grey is not God's color. I rather think it is the devil's—half white, half black.

God had this to say about Ephraim, "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." Charmed, glued or bewitched by his idols—he is a cake unturned—half raw—half cooked. He "hath mixed himself among the people. . . . Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not."

We hear of churches wanting a pastor that is a good mixer, but I think we need some good separators, who will keep the black out so we can stay white.

Grey is a type of being lukewarm—neither cold or hot—sickening—disgusting. Another thing, grey is a forerunner of death. When Christians mix with the world till they become grey,

they are very close to being walking carcasses.

"Let thy garments be always white." In Rev. 19, we read about the Lamb's wife making herself ready. She was arrayed in fine (expensive) linen "clean and white." The margin says "bright," which means they hadn't lost the glow. This dress is the righteousness of the saints—their holiness, innocence, own personal abiding sanctification. There are too many cheap, common, secondhand Christians today. There are entirely too many bastards, because so few will bear chastisement so they can become partakers of God's holiness. Not many want the refining fires of correction so they can be pure and perfectly white—WITHOUT A BLEMISH. Yes, there are too easy-to-buy Christians out these days. Their price is so low! Judas sold Christ for thirty pieces of silver (\$5.75 in our money, someone said). Well, some are selling out for less than that. When we allow the devil to put his nasty, smutty fingers on us, our price is coming down; our value is gone.

I heard of a merchant marking several suits that had been handled by the public, with a tag like this: "Slightly soiled. Price greatly reduced." I fear we don't esteem a good name high enough! "Let thy garments be always white." Again I ask the question, Who is responsible for so many grey, soiled or spotted Christians? I answer by saying, We preachers are. If our people see Christ in us; if they see holiness, purity and whiteness, and nothing but whiteness, the majority of them will become white.

Turn to the 30th chapter of Genesis and read how Jacob put streaked sticks in the cattles' drinking water and caused them to bring forth all kinds of colors. Well, preachers, when people behold us, when they eat from us, when they drink from us, they'll begin to look and act like us. If we are spotted, they'll be spotted. If we are dingy, they'll be dingy. If we are cheap and common, they'll be the same way. If we are holy, they'll be holy. If we are white, they'll be white. Preacher, let your garments be always white, for if you get one spot on you, your members will get two.

Well, after all, the best and only sure remedy for whiteness is for sanctified preachers to preach sanctification, in the old time way, with little words and big power, instead of big words and little power. I am a great believer in homiletics, but a sermon can be homi-

leticed to death. I once had an evangelist that would stop in his preaching and say, "You folk stare at me like a calf looking at a new gate." Well, I think it possible to puzzle anything with a lot of useless definitions. The world will not learn God by man's wisdom any way. We can do more good by being good than in any other way, so let's keep in mind that God loves white. White is all He'll have. "Let thy garments be always white."

WISCONSIN STATE CONVENTION

The Wisconsin state convention for the Church of God, which convened at Mosinee, Wisconsin, June 7-9, is now history but it shall be long remembered.

The local pastor, Brother Ross J. Hill, and wife, and saints of the church worked faithfully for the enjoyment of all who attended the convention.

Brother Wilma Henry, state overseer of Iowa, was the evening speaker and Bible teacher, whose ministry and teaching proved a blessing and inspiration.

Brother Lemuell Johnson, the state overseer, was at his post of duty as an efficient leader. His deep concern was others first and himself last.

There were many visitors present this year who testified that the convention was a great blessing to them.

Many specials in song and music were rendered by groups from the following churches and communities: Mosinee, Winegar, Sheboygan, White Lake, Marion, Bloomington, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis, Minn.

The L. W. W. B. gave a report of the good work that has been accomplished during the year.

The Sunday afternoon service conducted by the young people was complimentary.

God has been blessing the church in the State of Wisconsin and we are looking forward to greater things in the future.—H. A. Bober, convention clerk.

A Request

God to undertake for Mrs. Earl Allen, Coalinga, Calif. She is to undergo a serious operation and is uneasy about herself. Also pray for her salvation and that her hearing may be restored.—W. W. Massey, pastor, Coalinga, Calif.

Love always finds something to do.

"Woe unto you, lawyers!
for ye have taken away the
key of knowledge: ye en-
tered not in yourselves, and
them that were entering in
ye hindered" (Luke 11:52).

The Empty Pulpits

By Robert Clark

Some time ago, we wrote a sermon on "The Empty Seats." It seemed to have struck a responsive note, as well it might; empty pews are a matter of general concern and discussion. In that sermon we looked at some of the reasons and excuses that were offered in justification for the absence of worshippers, and at the same time we tried to answer the excuses. As we thought a little more deeply on the matter, we have come to the conclusion that we had not mentioned the first and greatest reason why there are so many empty seats in our congregations. The reason there are many empty seats is because there are so many empty pulpits.

When we speak of empty pulpits, we do not mean that there is a scarcity of ministers and that churches have to be closed on that account. What we mean is that the pulpit is empty because it is not functioning as a Christian pulpit should. There may be a man in it who has many commendable gifts and qualities, but as far as being a preacher of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, he is not qualified by personal experience or by training. What he preaches is another gospel which is not another; there is only one gospel of Christ (*Gal. 1:6-9*). A former denominational secretary in our state, Vermont, used to say that he would rather have a pulpit empty without a man than with a man. The people are getting pious platitudes and good advice instead of the gospel of the grace of God ministered to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. The result is that the true believers are not fed with the milk and the meat of the Word, and they go elsewhere. Others never have their consciences stirred or their feelings aroused; they are lulled to sleep spiritually and eventually they prefer to sleep at home. And this is by no means a rare occurrence, as the banks of empty pews indicate.

This state of affairs is not something new or belonging wholly to present days, nor are we the first to call attention to it. We can trace it back to the earliest times in the spiritual history of the human race. We find that whenever God appeared in

grace to men, and established some institution which would be a means of grace to the sinner to lead him to the presence and into fellowship with God, Satan would immediately marshal his forces and seek to destroy that institution. He used two methods: violence and guile. When one method failed, he tried the other. When he succeeded, as he usually did after a time, the result was equivalent to what we call an empty pulpit. That institution ceased to function as an agency for the spiritual life of man. More than that, it became perverted and ministered to the spiritual death of multitudes of people, and many of the people were unconsciously deceived. This institution, they knew, had been established by God, and they naturally supposed that God was still in it in saving power.

It is easy to find examples in the Word of God where such conditions prevailed. We can go back to the gates of Eden, when our first parents sinned and were driven out of Eden. God provided a way by which they and their children could approach Him in an acceptable way. This was by the altar and by the sacrifice of a lamb. In process of time Cain and Abel came with an offering to the Lord. Abel came with the required sacrifice and was accepted (*Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4*), but Cain came in the way of disobedience and self-will. He offered only the fruit of the ground, the fruit of a sin-cursed earth. He left out the blood of substitutionary sacrifice. He was virtually annulling God's ordinance and establishing one of his own. Though he was condemned by God and warned, Cain went out angry, unrepentant and established a way of his own—and this was followed by a large majority of the human race from that day to this. Jude, in New Testament times, writing of the false teachers that abounded even then, describes them as having "gone in the way of Cain" (*v. 11*); that is, they have a man-made form of worship: they leave out the blood. This Cainite tribe has increased tremendously in our times and is one of the great contributory causes of present-day spiritual

declension.

Another way in which the divine ordinances were prostituted to an evil purpose is seen in the worship of the golden calf at Mount Sinai. When Moses, the man of God, was on the mountain receiving the law, the people became restless because of his absence and rebelled. Presumably, some of the "more liberal" members of the camp wanted a more liberal interpretation of religion and one that was more attractive to the world. They came to Aaron with a proposition to make them new gods which should go before them. Aaron was a weak-kneed, spineless compromiser, who catered to the public demand. He called for an offering, and with the gold he made a calf and built an altar before it (*Exod. 32*). In a show of keeping the old and uniting it with the new, he proclaimed a feast to Jehovah. The feast turned into a dance, as some of our present-day religious gatherings are doing; and, because the dance was patterned after the Egyptian dances, they would call it a "folk dance"; therefore, it was interesting, instructive, educational—and religious. They dressed, or rather undressed, according to the custom, and their shame was made evident to their enemies (*Exod. 32*). In the irony of fate, it was Moses, their rejected leader, who interceded for them and saved them from the wrath of God.

Another example of empty pulpits is in the early days of Samuel the prophet. We read: "And the Word of the Lord was precious in those days, there was no open vision" (*1 Sam. 3:1*). There were priests enough, but they were dissolute and corrupt, and their sinful actions brought the offering of the Lord into disrepute (*1 Sam. 2:17*). The result was that the people were left in ignorance of the will of the Lord and to the spiritual darkness into which they were born. It was then that the grace of God intervened and sent them a prophet who brought spiritual blessing to the nation.

This condition was especially bad in the days of our Lord. The religious leaders made a great pretense of piety; but their religion was formal, exter-

nal, hypocritical and selfish. They had no joy in their religion, and they brought no joy to the people. Our Lord stated the case exactly when he told them that they had taken away the key of knowledge; they entered not in themselves, and them that were entering they hindered. They were a double hindrance to any true seeker after truth. They were passing out false doctrine on the one hand, and on the other they were standing in the way. Such is the case of any empty pulpit, such as we have described.

We have already stated that we have not been the first to protest against this state of affairs. Ever since this evil began there have been some discerning souls who lifted their voices in protest. The prophets, especially, since the days of Samuel on down to present days, raised their voices and condemned this evil in no uncertain terms. We have not the space to cite many examples. The Bible student can find them easily. We will cite one case only.

That example is from the prophecy of Ezekiel. It is the Word of the Lord, and it is His indictment of all who come under this category which we have been discussing: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel... that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed them which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there was no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the Word of the Lord; As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not the flock; therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; thus saith the Lord God: Behold I am against the shepherds;

and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them" (34:1-10). Comment is unnecessary.

It is pertinent for us to ask now: "What is it that makes a pulpit empty today?" We think we can give a few answers to that question. We have all the teaching of the New Testament to guide us.

A pulpit is empty, in the sense of our text, when the man in it has not had the experience of the new birth. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself tells us that that is the one indispensable condition of seeing and of entering into the Kingdom of God (*John 3:3*). Furthermore, the Word tells us that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (*1 Cor. 2:14*). How, then, could a person, who is incapable of receiving and knowing the things of the Spirit, pass them on to others? Sometimes God, in accordance with His sovereign will, used an instrument that was not born again, as He did in the case of Baalam, the beast he rode, and the high priest in the day of our Lord. But the divine order for the dissemination of the gospel is to be through a person who has been born again. Otherwise that pulpit is empty.

A pulpit is empty when the man in it does not believe that the Bible is divinely and verbally inspired, authoritative in all matters that pertain to faith and doctrine. He places himself on a plain higher than the Word of God. He is its critic. He passes judgment on what is truth and what is not. He is doing two evil things: he is discrediting the Word of God, and he is exalting human wisdom. God cannot bless such a ministry. The pulpit is empty.

A pulpit is empty when the occupation does not believe in the deity of our Lord. This is one of the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. One who denies it, denies the truthfulness of the Bible. He denies the witness of the Spirit, and the convictions of the saints of all ages. He has no gospel of redemption to preach; the best he can do is give ethical counsel. As a Christian pulpit which he occupies, it is empty.

A pulpit is empty when the man in it denies the substitutionary sacrifice

of our Lord Jesus Christ; in other words, when he leaves out the blood. He deliberately sets himself athwart the consistent teaching of the whole Word of God. The gospel is: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (*2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 1 Peter 1:18-20*). When any one denies this great truth, the pulpit is worse than empty; it has become a place where Satan's seat is.

Again, a pulpit is empty when there is no recognition of the Holy Spirit. It is the function of the Spirit to take of the things of Christ and reveal them unto us. It is His function, also, to use us as instruments in His hands. The gospel is to be preached "with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven" (*1 Peter 1:12*). Where He is absent, the pulpit is vacant.

The pulpit is empty unless it is bathed in the love of God and the preacher overflowing with it. Paul declares that eloquence, knowledge, faith, and benevolence are no substitutes for the love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. Where there is no real love for the souls of men and for their spiritual welfare, there is a barren service.

A pulpit may be empty for a season because the preacher is out of fellowship with God. He may have done wrong and has never confessed it and sought restoration. The preacher may get into a state where he is more concerned for his own glory than for the glory of God. God cannot bless such a ministry. That is what Paul had in mind when he wrote: "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (*1 Cor. 9:26, 27*). We all can, with profit, follow this example of Paul who filled his pulpit from first to last.—*Gospel Herald*.

REVIVAL

OSCEOLA, Ark.—We praise the Lord for the revival just closed at the Midway Church of God, with Brother L. I. Rickett and co-laborers from Mississippi as evangelist. A number were saved, eight baptized with the Holy Ghost, several reclaimed, and five baptized in water. Pray for us.—F. J. Rudesill, pastor.

B. T. S. Speaks . . .

Valedictory — Christian Workers

By BERNICE STOUT

I am indeed happy to represent the Christian Workers' Class and to leave with you a few final words in this our last assembly together. We, too, agree that to live is to serve. We have chosen to invest our lives in the cause of Christ's kingdom on earth. We wish to go out to represent the religion that proves its faith by its works, and links the preaching of the Fatherhood of God to the practice of the brotherhood of man. We intend to live a life of complete service for God by letting the light of His love shine forth and penetrate the hearts of unbelievers.

No young person, or no person, for that matter, is ready to invest his life in any calling until he has said to God, "Here am I. What wilt Thou have me to do?" We never truly find our lives until first we lose them. "He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." To give our lives to Christ is to keep them forever. To submit to His bondage is to know perfect freedom. The path we fear to see is often the path which alone will bring us the greatest satisfaction and happiness.

D. L. Moody once said, "Give me ten men fully consecrated to Christ and I will shake any city for God." Christ found eleven such men and the world still feels their influence. The coming ages will never forget "the march of eleven men"—a handful of personalities who dared give all for the cause of Christ.

As I look at this class of students, I am thrilled with its potential power for the accomplishment of the task we have set before us if we keep fully surrendered to God.

What should be our mission in life?

To cleanse and sweeten the world in which we live. To be active, not passive.

Not alone to be better than other men, but to have the purpose and power to make other men better.

To help bear the burden of our fellow man who is almost broken beneath its weight.

To take Christ to all men.

To make our presence felt on earth, and felt for good.

Men of privilege without power are waste material. Men of enlightenment

without influence are the poorest kind of rubbish. Men of intellectual and moral culture who are not active forces for good in society are not worth what it costs to produce and keep them.

We have had mental training and plenty of instructions in various branches of learning. We ought to be full of intelligence.

We have had one of the best environments for which one could wish. We have enjoyed Christian associates. Moral discipline and influences of good example have impressed us greatly and made our life richer and more complete. We ought to have principle.

We have had real advantages and a blessed opportunity to study God's Word under the guidance of capable teachers directed by the Holy Ghost. We are thoroughly convinced of the truth which places within a blessed hope. We ought to be full of faith.

What are we going to do with our intelligence, our principle, and our faith? It is our duty to make active use of them for the seasoning, cleansing, and the saving of the world.

There are multitudes of our fellow men whose existence is dark, confused, and bitter. All around us are signs of decay. It is not enough to say, "Touch not the unclean thing," on the contrary, we must touch it to check and overcome it. As Henry Van Dyke says, "We are not meant to be simply like trees planted by the rivers of waters, flourishing in their own pride and for

their own sake—we should be like the tree of paradise "whose leaves are for the healing of nations."

There is a loftier ambition than merely to stand high in the world. There is a nobler character than that which is merely incorruptible.

Our task is to:

Fearlessly speak words which bear witness to righteousness and purity.

Patiently do the deeds which strengthen virtue and kindle hope in our fellow man.

Generously lend a hand to those who are trying to climb upward.

Faithfully give our support and our personal help to the efforts which are marking to elevate and purify the social life of the world.

Let our lives prove the words of

Thomas Guthrie when he said,
*"I live for those who love me,
 For those who know me true,
 For the heaven that bends above me,
 And the good that I can do;
 For the wrongs that need resistance,
 For the cause that lacks assistance,
 For the future in the distance,
 And the good that I can do."*

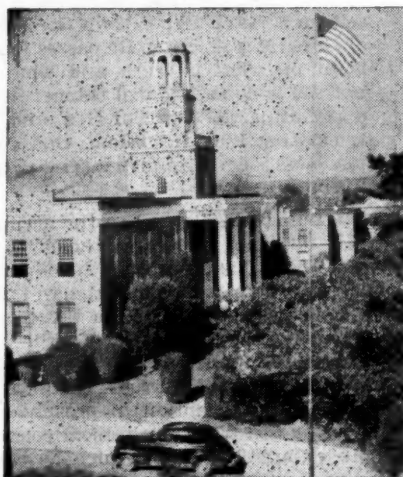
Dear classmate, let not the Word of God be evil spoken of; meditate upon it day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then shalt thou have good success.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Farewell.



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::: TESTIMONIES :::

Prayers Have Brought Me Thus Far

LENOIR CITY, Tenn.—About thirty years ago, I was a member of the Church of God at White Stone, Ga., and I was a backslider ever since until God saved me lately. I was just stumbling around through the darkness, not knowing the danger that I was in. I am surely hungry for some good Pentecostal sermons like we used to have at White Stone, Ga. I love those good Georgia people. I don't have all of their addresses but I wish all of the saints who knew me at White Stone would write me. I would surely like to get in touch with them once more.

I have been sick and in the hospital, at the point of death with ulcer of the stomach, and I have just begun to work a little. Please pray for me, that I may get well and get closer to God. I believe prayers have brought me as far as I am.—Wesley W. Rose, Rt. 3.

God Has All Power

CARTERSVILLE, Ga.—Just a word of praise to our Lord and Savior who can heal and save. The child for whom I sent in the request, who could not walk, can now walk by herself and can say several words. Thank God for it all. I give God all the glory. The devil got mad about it, but God has all power. Praise His name! My heart has been so burdened for the child. I believe we should fast for things we want and then ask God for it. Please hold on to God and have faith in Christ.—Lillie Mae Jenkins, 3 Short St.

Trusting the Lord for Complete Healing

LUGOFF, S. C.—Dear Saints of God, I am praising God this morning for His goodness and mercy to me. I praise Him for the way He has blessed my soul, and for the many times He has healed me when I was sick, even for the past few weeks when I was so sick, for the way He came to my rescue and touched my body. I am not completely healed, but I am trusting the Lord for complete healing, and I ask all who know the worth of prayer to pray for the Lord to completely heal my body if it is His will to do so.

If not, let His will be done. — Mrs. M. L. Cashatt, Rt. 1, Box 55.

Could Not Have Been Much Happier

TROY, S. C.—Dear Evangelist Readers, greetings in Jesus' name. I am fourteen years old, and I have been reared in a Christian home. When I was eleven years old, I accepted Jesus as my Savior. I joined the Church of God, and lived a Christian life for a while, but I gradually lost out because I would not pray. I grew to love worldly things, but I was never happy. It was like reaching out into darkness, groping for something you could not find. Still I went deeper and deeper in sin. Sometimes I would be convicted of my sins, but I would try to push

them out of my mind. I would go to church, but I wouldn't let myself be touched by anything the preacher or saints said. Then, one night, I went to a revival meeting at the Church of God at Greenwood, S. C., where Evangelist S. C. Chambers was preaching. Something got hold of me that night, and I went to the altar. I wasn't ready to give up the world, so I didn't get anywhere. I went on under conviction for several days.

On Monday, I was supposed to go to school, but I wanted to be saved so badly that I got sick. On Tuesday, I turned loose of all the things of the world and was saved. On March 24, 1946, I was sanctified and the Lord told me to join the Church of God. I don't know how to explain the feeling I had when I joined. I don't think I could have felt much happier.

I feel the Lord has special work for me to do, and I want to go to Bible Training School. I ask the prayers of all of you good Christian people, that I might receive the Holy Ghost.—Miss Montre Jennings.

A GIFT FROM GOD

By James K. Earls

The Holy Ghost is not for unbelievers. He is not a third work of grace, but is a gift from God. Acts 10:45.

We find in God's Word where it says in the last days "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh." Joel 2:28. The prophets even desired to look into this that we have today. Yes, this is a wonderful privilege. I believe with all my heart that we are living in the last days. We need the Holy Ghost to teach us and bring all things to our remembrance (John 14:26), to help us overcome this wicked and adulterous generation.

I know the world doesn't want the Holy Ghost nor the power of God, but it is going to take the whole armor to be with Christ at the marriage supper.

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection," Rev. 20:6.

God does not have respect of persons. You who pay the price and meet the condition, the Holy Ghost is for you and your children. Acts 2:39.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever," John 14:15, 16.

My friend, the day will come when you will need the Comforter. John

came preaching repentance. He said, "He that cometh after me who is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire," Matt. 3:11.

There are thousands receiving the Holy Ghost this day and time, and that is good proof that we are living in the last days. We can see many signs of the coming of the Lord.

Why not pay the price and receive Him today?

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"Victory Practical Handbook for Ministers" at \$1.25. The regular price has been \$1.50. This book contains a helpful study on the office of the elder, the bishop, the deacon, the apostle, the prophet, the evangelist, the teacher, and the pastor. It also contains formulas for marriages, funerals, etc. 232 pages.

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REPORTS... *From the Field*

Church at Humboldt, Tenn., Encouraged

HUMBOLDT, Tenn.—We have much to thank the Lord for in Humboldt, Tenn. Surely this has been the best year the church here has ever had, both spiritually and financially. We do not know how to thank the Lord for the precious souls He has filled with the Holy Ghost and added to the church. Hallelujah! I feel His sweet presence now.

Our attendance is about double in Sunday School. The Lord is blessing in every class; all our teachers have the Holy Ghost and are on fire for God. Our dear pastor, Brother M. A. Gifford, has and is working faithfully; he is much loved by all and he and his wife put their all into the service. We had been struggling along with our church debt, with a small monthly payment for a long time, but the Lord got hold of the hearts of the people and we raised \$910 in two Sundays, and paid off the entire indebtedness. One sister, seventy years old, went out and picked strawberries to help pay it off.

We are planning now for a parsonage, which will be a great help, as our pastor is living in the back of the church, and we need the rooms for Sunday School rooms.

Brother Taylor conducted us a revival in January; he did some wonderful preaching under the anointing of the Spirit, and the effects are still with us. We are looking forward to a revival with Brother James Clark, of West Nashville. I truly pray that the Lord will give us many more souls. Pray for us at Humboldt.—Fannie Cobb, Gen. Del.

Thanksgiving From the Church at Steppville, Ala.

STEPPVILLE, Ala.—Greetings in our blessed Lord for what He is doing for us at Steppville, Ala. For a long time we held on to the Lord for a place in which to worship. He has given us a little church, not finished, but we are going along with it fine, and we surely praise God for it.

There are only six Church of God members in this place and two of them are children. We had our first service in our little church June 2. We

love our dear pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister Collier.

Pray that this place will rise and shine for God and He will help and give us souls. The Lord is blessing our every effort.—Mrs. Ethel Karnes, Gen. Del.

Mouthcard, Ky., Blessed With the Church of God

Dear Evangel Readers, we want to sound a note of praise for our little band of people who make up the Church of God at Mouthcard, Ky. As the result of a two weeks' revival, which was conducted by Rev. T. D. Kennedy, of Powhatan, W. Va., we now have a church of nineteen members. The little church was set in order by Brother Wheeler Stump, of Freeburn, Ky., February 17, 1946, with five members. Since that time we have had a wonderful revival, Brother Wheeler Stump doing the preaching the first two weeks and Rev. T. D. Kennedy, who is now the pastor of the church, preaching the last two weeks. The revival ended with the taking of bread and wine, and feet washing.

We have a fine Sunday School. We won the state Sunday School banner for April and we want to organize a Y.P.E. and L.W.W.B. in the near future. We are planning to build a nice building of our own to worship in, as we are now having services in a school house.

We certainly covet the prayers of all Christians that the Church of God at Mouthcard, Ky., will rise and shine for God.—Mrs. T. D. Kennedy.

Infant Church Enjoys Great Day

MANHATTAN, Mont.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. Just another infant crying for attention. Our church was set in order on April 9 with six members, four transferred from another church and two new members, and we have gained two members since, making eight in all.

On Sunday, May 12, we had a fellowship meeting with people from Bozeman and Three Forks attending; also, our beloved state overseer, W. H. Godwin, and family were present. Brother Godwin delivered the Mother's Day message in the morning. In the afternoon, Brother Beckman, of

Three Forks, gave a short talk on the importance of prayer, then Brother Wesley Snyder, our district overseer, brought a very stirring message. We surely had a great day in the Lord. We have a nice Sunday School. Our average attendance for April was twenty-nine.

Please pray much for this new work. Brother Leonard Anderson is pastor.—J. B. Essex, clerk.

Lignite District Convention

LIGNITE, N. Dak.—We praise God for giving us such a great district convention, which was held May 17-19. We can truly say it was one of the best Lignite has ever known, and was a real feast of spiritual things from the beginning to the end.

We were privileged to have with us our state overseer, Rev. C. C. McAfee; Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Folden and boys, of Plaza, N. Dak.; Rev. and Mrs. Max Brandt and two girls, of Willow City, N. Dak.; Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Kisser and family, of Goodlands, Manitoba; and Brother Iver Roset, of Plerson, Manitoba. Our neighboring church from across the line in North Portal, Sask., was with us nearly one hundred per cent.

Brother McAfee brought a soul-stirring evangelistic message every evening; also bringing a fine message at the mission service Sunday afternoon. Our mission offering was \$376.80.

On Saturday, Brother Brandt preached at the morning service, and Brother Folden in the afternoon. Sunday morning, Brother McAfee gave a talk to our boys and girls in Sunday School, and Brother Kisser brought the morning message.

Brother Roset did his part in leading some good, lively song services.

Every message was so inspiring and uplifting, just what we needed. And the special numbers, too, were all such a blessing! God was in it all. Praise His name!

We have a fine pastor and wife, Brother and Sister David Green, whom we appreciate very much, for they are out to win souls, and we wouldn't want to forget to give them word of credit for the effort they put forth to make this convention a great success.

The last service of our convention was one that never will be forgotten, for God blessed in such a marvelous way. People were weeping and shouting and praising God all over the

(Continued on page 14)

REVIVALS

VERO BEACH, Fla.—We, the Church of God here, wish to report a good revival beginning March 10 and continuing through April 14, 1946, with Brother Paul Shoemaker as evangelist. In addition to his preaching, Brother and Sister Shoemaker did some good singing that was enjoyed and appreciated by all. The Lord surely blessed. The power of the Lord came down in our midst and a number of times the evangelist did not get to preach.

The visible results were ten saved, seven sanctified, ten baptized with the Holy Ghost, twelve baptized in water, and fifteen added to the church. We feel that much lasting good has been accomplished, for which we thank the Lord.

Since our pastor came here after last Assembly, thirty-seven have been added to the church. Our Sunday School was increased from sixty-three to one hundred thirty-nine in number.

We are planning to build a new church and parsonage, and we hope to be able to report a beginning of the buildings soon.

We surely appreciate our pastor, Brother A. J. Duncan, and wife. They are real workers for the Lord.—Paul M. Bishop, clerk.

CASHIERS, N. C.—We are truly praising God for the greatest revival we have ever had at Cashiers Church of God. Brother J. W. Cannon, of Woodfin, N. C., was the evangelist. We also had Brother E. L. Rooper, of Spartanburg, S. C., with us. His prayers and personal work were very effective.

We are really pleased with our pastor, Brother J. W. Shook. He is faithful. We had no place to worship here just after Brother and Sister Shook came in September. We had our services around in our homes all winter, but with much labor and prayers, and, by the contribution of money by our many friends, we have our building near completion. We are now using it to worship in. Praise the Lord!

The work here is about four years old, but it was set in order only two years ago, with eight members. We now have forty-three.

Our revival was great indeed. There were twenty-seven saved, twenty-two sanctified, thirteen filled with the Holy Ghost, seventeen baptized in

water, and twenty-three added to the church.—Mrs. Sally K. McCall, clerk.

CRESCENT SPRINGS, Ky.—We praise God for the wonderful revival we had at Crescent Springs, which ran six weeks, with Brother Pearl Frazier as our evangelist. Thirty were saved, twenty-one sanctified, twenty filled with the Holy Ghost, twenty-two baptized in water, and seven added to the church. We were made to rejoice together as the young and old danced and shouted under the great power of God. Brother Frazier is a man of God; he preached under the anointing power of God, letting the Holy Ghost have His way in every service. His good wife is a wonderful worker, standing by him with much prayer.—Mrs. John Dehner, Rt. 4, Box 198, Erlanger, Ky.

MIDDLESBORO, Ky.—A good revival has just closed at the Church of God, Middlesboro, Ky., with Rev. Garrett Swain as evangelist and Bill Laferver as helper. They surely work. Nine were saved, five sanctified, four filled with the Holy Ghost, six baptized in water, and four added to the church.

We have a good church here, some of the best people, or as good as you will find anywhere. If anyone comes this way, stop and see us.

I have been sick since January 1 but I still have a mind to work and a "go ye" in my soul. I may never be well again, if God doesn't heal me, for I am fully trusting Him. I have not taken a single dose of medicine in twenty-eight years. God has done wonders for me and healed hundreds of divers diseases. He can heal me, if it is His will; if not, I am ready to go, if I do, just meet me on the other side.

Well, I praise the Lord for the Church of God. I have been in it nearly seventeen years. I have done my best to do my part all along the way and am still trying to do my part. I want to strive for unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, for I love them all.

Everyone pray for me, I need prayer now, and come to see me. If you can't come, write me. I love you all. Pray that I may be able to go to the Assembly this year. We are praying for God to send us another evangelist about the last of July. Pray for us that

we may have a good revival and souls will be saved.—Sam Halcomb, pastor, Rt. 1, Box 229.

MONROE, Ga.—Dear Evangel Readers, we have completed a four weeks' successful campaign. Sister Lillian Peacock and Sister Roach, of Tampa, Fla., were our evangelists. The Lord was with us in power. Forty-three were saved, about the same number sanctified, thirty-seven filled with the Holy Ghost, and thirty-three added to the church. Surely the Lord is with us. The revival fire is still burning. One was saved after the revival closed.

We had fifty members last Assembly; we now have ninety-seven. Our good pastor, Rev. Noah C. Ridgeway, is at his post of duty, watching over the flock. We expect to double our membership by the Assembly, by the help of the Lord.

Manifestations of the Spirit were so real during our great revival. Messages were given out and interpretations thereof. Sister Peacock and Sister Roach surely let the Holy Ghost lead the service.

We, the church at Monroe, Ga., praise the God of heaven, our Father, through His blessed Son, our Savior. Yes, in the Spirit, we praise and worship Him for all His benefits to us. We are thankful for our dear pastor and family. We feel like saying with Brother Paul of old, in 2 Cor. 13:11, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."—John T. Bramblett.

CHRISTIANSBURG, Va.—We have just closed a wonderful revival at the Church of God on North Harless Avenue here in Christiansburg. Rev. Herbert A. Stone, of Max Meadows, Va., was the evangelist. This man of God did some old-fashioned preaching under the mighty anointing of the Holy Ghost.

We cannot praise God enough for all He has done for us here this year. In this meeting six were saved, two sanctified, one filled with the Holy Ghost, and five added to the church, this making twenty-eight additions to the church since the Assembly. The church here is moving on for God. In our regular Sunday night service last night, there were twenty-five in the altar seeking God. Some were sinners seeking for a pardon. Pray for us at Christiansburg.—J. B. Holcomb.

SIN

(Continued from page 5)

tions would be fruitless unless there was a carnal desire to reinforce them.

You may object that Jesus said out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, thefts, falsehood, and blasphemies. True, the heart of the natural or fallen man is so closely related to his flesh that it falls right in line and rejoices with the flesh in its pleasures. There is no desire found in the heart that does not originate in the carnality of the flesh. The desire arises in the flesh and is relayed to the heart. Habitual indulgence of pleasure creates a love and desire in the heart, after which the heart lusts with the flesh. Anger, malice, enmity, murder, etc., arise in the heart from opposition and interference in the pursuit of said pleasures.

Does the desire of fornication arise in the heart or in the sense of feeling? Does the desire for drink arise in the heart or in the sense of taste? And does not anger and ill will arise from the heart because of interference with our execution of said desires?

You may ask, If sin originates in the flesh, where does the sin of angels originate? It can rise from pride or self-will, but not from carnality. Rev. 12:9 reveals that Satan was cast out of heaven. In Isaiah 44:12-15, we find, no doubt, that the cause of his being cast out was pride and self-exaltation, which in turn created self-will and rebellion. Regardless of the sin of angels, the fact remains established by the scripture that sin in the human race originates in the carnality of man.

Restoration of Fallen Man

If by sin man fell from the grace of God, is it logical to assume that he can be restored without the eradication of sin? The answer is NO, positively NO. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" 1 Cor. 6:9. If then, as Paul said, we are sold under sin in the flesh and are helpless in its bondage, how shall we overcome it and make ourselves fit to dwell with God? for the scriptures plainly state that we purify ourselves. 1 John 3:3. The answer is found in Romans 8:2-4. "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Holy Spirit) hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Well, GLORY! the Holy Ghost delivers us from the power of sin and death. That brings to mind the promise of Jesus, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Does indwelling of the Holy Spirit signify that carnality is completely eradicated? No, Paul said to the Corinthians, "Ye are yet carnal," 1 Cor. 3:3. In the sixteenth verse of this same chapter he says, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" The Spirit helps our infirmities and empowers us to eradicate sin from the flesh, heart and life. But there is only one way we can have this power. The power is in the Spirit, and to obtain the power we must walk in the Spirit. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh," Gal. 5:16. You remember that James said, "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death." If we don't walk in the Spirit, we will fulfill the lusts of the flesh, we sin, and if we sin, we die. What is walking in the Spirit? Walking in the Spirit is following wholly after spiritual things. "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit," Rom. 8:5.

Beloved, may we be so yielded that the God of all righteousness may sanctify us wholly by His Spirit and our belief (obedience) in the truth.

In Need of Prayer

Dear Friends, I am asking for the prayers of those who may read this. I am in the army in the hospital and I am trying to help everyone I can. I am needed at home so badly. I have a wife and two babies and my oldest baby seems to be paralyzed. I know God can heal it.

My wife, my mother, and sister are members of the Church of God and I am living for my Savior. I am going to join the church at soon as I get home. I have paralysis or bad nerves. I need lots of prayer and encouragement. I will appreciate your help; I know He will answer prayer. May God bless all who read this.

My home address is R.F.D. 1, Cairo, Ga.—John E. Wynn.

The fear of God keeps us from fearing anything else.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD Lignite District Convention

(Continued from page 12)

church as several young people made their way to the altar and accepted the Lord as their Savior. After the altar service, we had the most wonderful testimony service. Every one was so happy and ready to testify.

The following Sunday afternoon, we had a baptismal service at Beavers Lake where five followed the Lord in baptism.

Pray for us that the revival fires will continue to burn.—Esther Brown, reporter.

REQUESTS

(Continued from page 2)

The healing of my dear mother who is suffering from a cancer; me.—Mrs. C. H. Moore, Verbena, Ala.

God to undertake for my husband.—Mrs. C. G. Gunter, Box 327, Frostproof, Fla.

Me to be healed of kidney trouble and a stroke, I haven't walked in a year. I am trusting the Lord.—E. E. Clemons, 315 N. Poplar, Greenville, Miss.

Me to be healed of T.B., I have been afflicted fourteen months; the healing of a friend who has T.B.; my husband; my children to be cared for.—Mrs. Henrietta Barker, Pinecrest Sanatorium, Beckley, W. Va.

The Lord to undertake for me.—Katherine Mitchell, 714 Princeton Ave., Princeton, W. Va.

The healing of a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Will Holloway, Jr., of lung trouble.—Mrs. Estelle Holloway, Rt. 3, Coffeetown, Miss.

The Lord to save my soul and heal my body, my heart is in a terrible condition, also my nerves.—Mrs. Ruby Bell, Rt. 7, Box 692, Jacksonville, Fla.

The healing of our pastor, Rev. L. C. Baxter, of stomach and heart troubles.—Mrs. Clem Talley, Whitesburg, Tenn.

The Lord to heal my body, I firmly believe I have cancer or something else very serious, and I am often nervous and upset; God to undertake for my husband and boys. Encouragement appreciated.—Mrs. Pansy Adams, Rt. 1, Nettleton, Ark.

The Lord to heal my body, I have been sick a long time, my nerves and stomach are bad.—Lee Bond, Rt. 5, Box 36-A, Atlanta, Ga.

The Lord to heal me of a cancer; my dad to be healed, he has been down sixteen months.—Ida Bell Staples, Rock St., Macon, Ga.

THE REVELATION OF PAUL

(Continued from page 6)

faith of the saints in the fundamentals (precept upon precept) of Christ's death and resurrection. He says, in other words, if you believe (if your faith is sound) in that Jesus both died and was resurrected, you need not be concerned or anxious over those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, for, if God raised up Christ, He will also raise that which is Christ's at His coming. He has the power to raise the saints, also, if He raised Christ. But the principle of your faith is what counts here. Paul shows them.

In verse 15, Paul states that he speaks this doctrine by the word of the Lord or by (revelation) which God had given him.

In verse 16, he gives us a picture of the Lord as the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah." For Christ shall come, shouting, down from the skies, with a mighty voice, a great voice, and with the trump (power) of God Almighty, with power and might over all, (saints), and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Look at verse 17a. It seems to me that the dead shall have reached the height of the clouds and we can see them going up before we are caught up with them. Paul says that Christ shall come and we shall all be changed in the twinkling of an eye, but he didn't say we would be caught up in the twinkling of an eye. He said we shall be changed, for this mortal must put on immortality and this corruptible must put on incorruption.

(b) "And so shall we ever be with the Lord," ever in our changed bodies, our immortal bodies. The scripture here does not mean that we shall forever be in the air with Christ. It does not say "and there shall we ever be with the Lord." It says, "And so shall we ever be with the Lord." "So," means *thus* or for this reason. For this reason we are changed, that we can forever be able to stand in the presence of Christ.

I don't want to be left up in the air forever. I believe I shall also inherit the new heaven and earth of Revelation 2. I also believe I shall reign on earth with Christ for a thousand years during the millennium of Christ's kingdom. And I believe I shall have access to that beautiful city, New Jerusalem, which comes down from God out of heaven at the close of Christ's thousand years' reign.

"A SURE MARK OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN"

(Continued from page 3)

this. Jesus told us to love our enemies; He also provided the means, the strength, the power, with which to do so. No one but a truly Spirit-filled Christian *can* do this, in sincerity. It takes the power of God in a life. It requires something which mere "human nature" just doesn't possess. Indeed, it is something quite contrary to human nature; it is a manifestation of the Divine nature in the one who speaks kindly when wronged and maligned.

A Christian man testified in a meeting on one occasion that the greatest, happiest moment of his entire life came when he was able, by God's grace and power, to forgive a bitter enemy who wronged him cruelly, and then to speak kindly of that person. "I have never since then doubted the power of God, nor that He can and does impart divine and supernatural strength to a person for use on such occasions, if we sincerely *desire* to use that strength in accordance with His will," he added. "But God will not give such strength to us unless He knows that we truly intend to use it to His glory."

So rare is this power to return good for evil . . . kind words for unkind ones . . . favors for mean acts . . . that there is no sure mark of a true Christian. It is an honorable badge to wear. It may well be the goal of any professing follower of the Christ whose entire life was dedicated to the services of others . . . who died for His enemies as well as for His friends . . . who is ready to intercede for all at the Father's throne.

The man who mistreats others is taking poor care of himself.

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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Bushnell, Fla., Wonderfully Blessed

BUSHNELL, Fla.—Bushnell hasn't reported lately. The Lord surely has blessed in the past two years. We now have a nice six-room parsonage nearing completion, with bathroom, lights and water installed already; also, some nice new lights in the church. The church has been established around thirty years, and this is our first parsonage. How we thank the Lord for this. Earnest, fervent prayers avail much.

There has been an L. W. W. B. organized. All are busy and being wonderfully blessed.

Also, a Y. P. E. has been organized and is increasing in spirit and number.

The Sunday School has doubled in attendance lately.

Mother's Day was home-coming day. We had a large number out, dinner at church, and a special Mother's Day service. Each one was greatly blessed.

Pray for us and our pastor, Rev. R. J. Wetherington, and family.—Bushnell Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

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